

# *Crop Summary*

**2011 Crop Summary:** January of 2011 brought periods of very cold weather followed by temperatures in the average range for January. There were a few days with valley temperatures in the mid-40s. Reported snowpack is good and soil moisture has been recharged. Multiple snow storms occurred throughout the month of February, which has affected the majority of the state and has helped keep moisture levels above average for this time of year. Calving and lambing are well underway with some cattle losses reported due to severe winter weather.

Temperatures warmed up during the month of March with a few days of freezing temperatures. Overall it was a wet month with several days of rain and snow. Little field work was done due to the wet weather. The wet weather has also prevented much of the fertilizer and herbicide applications that need to be performed in early spring. Some damage to winter wheat due to snow mold was reported.

The high soil moisture levels, along with spring storms, and the cold temperatures restricted field work in some counties and halted field work altogether in other counties throughout this spring. Flooding has also been of concern with rivers, streams, and reservoirs running high due to warming temperatures and the spring runoff. Fruit trees are reported reaching full bloom during mid-April. Fruit producers in the northern part of the state have reported some frost damage to apricot blossoms, with most of the peach orchards reaching full bloom. Several Hard Frosts were reported in the central part of the state, where producers of sweet cherries, peaches, and apricots reported frost damage later in mid-May.

The days suitable for field work increased from 3.8 days to 5.8 days the first week of June with soil moisture decreasing and the warmer temperatures increasing. Flooding and hay supplies have been subjects of concerns for many Utah farmers and ranchers. Hay supplies in Utah have been tight which has forced some producers into cutting hay early in order to feed livestock.

As hot and dry weather become the norm across the state, reports of grasshoppers and weevil reaching infestation levels in wheat and alfalfa fields, cereal leaf beetles reaching large proportions in barley and some wheat, and corn mites have also been reported.

Afternoon thunderstorms that occurred during the end of June and throughout the beginning of July hindered much of the field work across the state. Field work picked up the second week of July with many growers in the northern part of the state making impressive progress with the abundant supply of irrigation water. Hay yields seem to be about average for the time of year. Many alfalfa growers in central Utah will only complete three cuttings this year instead of the customary four cuttings. This has been due to the abundant soil saturation conditions. Corn is growing but is noticeably less mature than past years at this time and will require a long fall in order to mature. Onion harvest in northern Utah began mid-August.

Late August reports from northern parts of the state are that the majority of corn is maturing and tasseled. Yields have been mixed with some irrigated fields exceeding yield expectations. Stripe rust has been reported earlier in the season and appears to be the major reason for lower wheat yields in northern and some central Utah counties.